

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARIO RUVALCABA ORTEGA
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.,
INC. et al.

Defendant.

Case No. 2:22-cv-04276-FLA (MRWx)

**ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY'S
FEES [DKTS. 22, 29]**

On March 24, 2023, the court issued an Order (Dkt. 28) granting in part and denying in part Defendant American Honda Motor Co.'s ("Defendant") Motion for Assessment of Costs Against Plaintiffs and For Stay of Proceedings Pending Payment of Such Costs (Dkt. 22). The court awarded court costs in the amount of \$532.44 and attorney's fees in an amount subject to determination, and ordered supplemental briefing on 1) the reasonableness of the claimed \$8,642.50 in attorney's fees incurred, and 2) whether the previously rendered legal services will contribute to Defendant's defense in the present case. *Id.*

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1 On April 7, 2023, Defendant filed its Supplemental Brief, including billing
2 records and itemization of time spent defending the action. Dkt. 29. On April 14,
3 2023, Plaintiffs Mario Ruvalcaba Ortega and Beatriz A. Ruvalcaba Tabarez
4 (“Plaintiffs”) filed an Opposition seeking to reduce fees sought by \$3,621.60. Dkt.
5 31.

6 Defendant seeks a total of \$8,642.50 in attorney’s fees for legal services
7 rendered in the state court action, asserting that the work product cannot be reused or
8 contribute to its defense in this action. *See* Dkt. 29. The court received six invoices
9 accounting for \$8,308.40 in attorney’s fees, rather than the \$8,642.50 claimed by
10 Defendant. *See* Dkt. 29 at 7-18 (Exhibit A); Dkt. 31 at 7. After reviewing
11 Defendant’s records, the court declines to award attorney’s fees for time spent
12 researching the subject vehicle and efforts to subpoena sale and repair records—
13 totaling \$1,415.67. This work is equally relevant to this action. Finally, the court
14 finds the remaining billing entries reflect unnecessary work Defendant was forced to
15 perform as a result of Plaintiffs’ conduct, as detailed in the court’s prior Order. *See*
16 Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(d).

17 The court, therefore, deducts \$1,415.67 from the \$8,308.40 invoice total, and
18 AWARDS \$6,892.73 in attorney’s fees to Defendant. Plaintiffs are ORDERED to
19 pay Defendant the fees and costs within ten days of this Order.

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21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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23 Dated: July 7, 2023

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26 FERNANDO L. AENLLE-ROCHA
27 United States District Judge
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